

**DISTRICT III ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 5, 2000
7:00 p.m.**

The District Advisory Board III was held in room 117, Colvin Mini-City Hall, 2820 S. Roosevelt.

Members Present

Phil Bloomquist
Jim Gulick
Judy Dillard
Lois Ann Newman
Matt Foley
Phyllis Hall
Sammy Rivera, DAB III Staff

Members Absent

Brent Turnipseed
Bill Ward
John Kemp
Gene Furh **gW~C**

Guests/Staff

C.P. Officer Matt Brown, Patrol East
C.P. Officer Michael Hungria, Patrol East
C.P. Officer Lisa Rollins, Patrol South
C.P. Officer Michael Roets, Patrol South
O.C.I. Neighborhood Supervisor Deb Legge
O.C.I. Commercial Supervisor Randy
Sparkman
Traffic Engineer Paul Gunzelman, Public
Works
Mrs. Diana Applegate, Samantha Applegate
Foundation
Patricia Greenway, Make a Wish Foundation
Amber Deckard, Muscular Dystrophy
Association
Regina Sinclair, Muscular Dystrophy
Association

Vice-Mayor Phil Lainbke told Board members that he was unable to stay at the meeting and assigned ***2nd Pro-Tern Phil Bloorquist*** to direct the meeting.

2ND Pro-Tern Phil Bloorquist called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The minutes for August 1st 2000 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC AGENDA

L Bus Safety and Public Awareness

Mrs. Diana Applegate, a Citizen of Wichita who recently lost her daughter Samantha due to a bus related accident, made a presentation. Mrs. Applegate's asked Board Members to make a recommendation to support a plan to provide more traffic education for drivers of vehicles to reduce deaths and injuries of passengers

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entering and leaving public transportation buses. Mrs. Applegate family established a foundation called the Samantha Applegate Foundation with the purpose of bringing awareness on bus and pedestrian safety as well as to raise support to establish local, statewide and federal laws to protect public bus riders and pedestrians.

Their Foundation is seeking the State approval of The Samantha Applegate Bill; a bill that proposes the following items: First; all the drivers on city buses in Kansas would be required to set bus flashes when loading and/or unloading passengers at bus stops or concerns. Second; all city buses would put signs or plaques inside reminding passengers, to wait for the bus to pull away before they cross the street. Third; all Drivers going by any stopped city bus in Kansas with flashers on would reduce their speed 10 miles under the posted speed until they have passed the bus. Fourth; all city buses in Kansas would have some type of outside sign on the rear of each bus, reminding drivers to watch for pedestrians when the buses are stopped with flashers on.

Board Members made the following questions /comments:

Board Member Lois Ann Newman wanted to know if **Mrs. Applegate** had contacted any State Legislators to request support for her Bill. **Diana Applegate** responded that she has done so, but that they had told her that this Bill is not a matter of politics, but a matter of Public Safety.

Board Member Matt Foley wanted to know if **Mrs. Applegate** had made any contacts with potential sponsors of this bill. Mrs. **Diana Applegate responded that** she had contacted **Davis Moore Auto Dealer** for assistance as well as **Mr. Doug Johnston**, a current candidate to the Kansas State Senate. Mrs. **Applegate** told Board Members that if **Mr. Johnston** wins the seat at the State Senate, he plans to present the bill before this body. **Board Member Foley** also wanted to know the roles of the Wichita Transit Department on this issue. **Al Hill, Neighborhood Liaison for the Wichita Transit Department** responded that his department is responsible to educate the public about bus safety and that they are currently doing so at the main station in downtown. **Mr. Hill** also stated that his department has signs in each bus that alerts bus riders of potential dangers. Each MTA driver uses the bus emergency flashers to alert other drivers every time that the bus is loading or unloading passengers. **Mr. Hill** told Board Members that his department is in the process of acquiring a new fleet of buses to improve the quality of services offered to Wichita Community. Each bus will have flashing lights on the back combined with LED electronic display signs to alert drivers of potential danger. The buses will have a voice alert system to give safety alerts to passengers as they step in or out of the bus. **Board Member Foley** made the comment that bus

safety is definitely a critical issue because citizens are currently disregarding flashing red lights on school buses creating a hazardous and dangerous situation every time for passengers and drivers.

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Mr. Foley wanted to know if **Mrs. Applegate** has considered the development of a Public Safety Campaign to create awareness among **drivers**. **Mrs. Applegate** responded that the campaign is one of the awareness tools that she is considering with radio and television stations in the area.

Board Member Lois Ann Newman commented that the citizens of Wichita are ignoring the emergency and warning lights of public safety vehicles and recommended that the City of Wichita should do something to do greater enforcement of these laws. **Citizen Diana Applegate** agreed with **Board Member Newman** by saying that she hopes to see her bill approved and implemented by the beginning of next year.

nd
*District III Advisory Board 2 Pro-tern Phil Bloom quist presented a motion to
endorse the approval of this bill and the motion carried unanimously.*

PLANNING

2. Proposed sidewalk on the southside of Lincoln between Broadview and Oliver

Paul Gunzelman, Traffic Engineer from Public Works made a presentation on this subject. This proposed sidewalk is part of the City of Wichita arterial sidewalk program. The City plan is to build a sidewalk on the southside of Lincoln between Broadview and Oliver. **Mr. Gunzelman** told Board Members that his office received two letters of support on this item and one letter against it.

Board Members made the following questions /comments:

Board Member Judy Dillard wanted to know who were the citizens in favor and against the proposed plan. **Mrs. Dillard's** also wanted to know the reason why the citizen against it opposed the project. **Paul Gunzelman** responded that the Hilltop **Community Church** and **Mr. Paul Records** were in favor of the project while **Mr. Kido Gather** opposed. **Mr. Gunzelman** told Board Members that **Mr. Gather** expressed his opposition to the proposed sidewalk because according to him, it will bring more children to meet and stay in front of his house, something he claims is already happening.

Board Member Matt Foley commented that Hilltop is a low-income neighborhood where most of the people walk, and he believes that his community wants the proposed sidewalk. **Board Member Foley** expressed concern for the possible removal % of trees that the Hilltop Community Church planted a few months ago as a City requirement to complete their church expansion project. **Paul Gunzelman** responded 'that the City is willing to work with the local church to find any possible ways to preserve the trees at their current location.

Board Member Jim Gulick wanted to know the source of funding for this project, as well as the expected lifetime of this sidewalk. **Mr. Gulick also** wanted to know who will be responsible for doing tree maintenance after the sidewalk project is completed. **Paul** Gunzelman responded that the City will use its General Obligation Fund to pay for this project, and that home and business owners in the area, will not be financially affected by this project because the City will finance it completely. **Mr. Gunzelinan** told Board Members that the sidewalks will last a long time and that home and business owners will be responsible for tree maintenance afterwards.

The session was open for public discussion but nobody commented.

Board Member Matt Foley presented a motion to recommend the approval of the proposed sidewalk project and the motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD AGENDA

3. Legislative Reuuest

The Governmental Relations Director for the City of Wichita, Mike Taylor has solicited requests for items to be included in the City of Wichita's Legislative Program. The forms have been mailed out to Board III Members in order to obtain their input. They are due by September 15, 2000.

4. General Overview by the Office of Central Inspection

Deb Legge, Neighborhood Inspection Supervisor for the Office of Central Inspection made a presentation on this topic. Mrs. Legge introduced herself to Board Members and proceeded to explain the several responsibilities and duties of her division.

Their main responsibility is housing code inspection. Neighborhood Inspectors work on code enforcement complaints and referrals, with 12 Inspectors working in the City of Wichita assigned to 12 defined areas or zones.

For District III, there are two Inspectors **Leonard Fox and Herb Shaner**, working on concentrated zones of enforcement that have a high volume of code enforcement problems.

Inspector Fox is assigned to Planeview and other areas nearby, while **Inspector Shaner is assign** to Hilltop and other near areas as well.

Mrs. Legge's division is also responsible for the coordination of the Neighborhood Clean up program, that provides clean-ups at local neighborhoods in Wichita. This effort is done in coordination with the Neighborhood Associations and the Health Department. Every month, Neighborhood Inspectors rotate to cover several neighborhood clean-ups in the City. In 1999, her division provided clean-ups to 85 neighborhoods in Wichita. According to Mrs. Legge it seems like there is a great possibility that the City will no longer offer this service next year due to the imminent

closure of Brooks Landfill in October of 2000.

Mrs. **Legge** is available for any neighborhood concerns or complaints regarding Neighborhood Code Enforcement at 268-4481.

Randy Sparkman, Commercial Zoning Inspection Supervisor for the Office of Central Inspection continued with the presentation. **Randy Sparkman** told Board Members that his division is responsible to issue licenses to basically everything within City limits that requires a license or permit. That includes drinking, adult videos and nude dancing establishments. As the City continues to annex several areas of the County, his division works to reduce erotic places within City limits.

Mr. Sparkman division regulates commercial zoning and deals with commercial problems such as control of land use. It also regulates commercial signs including billboards. His division faces a constant challenge to regulate this signs because they are prone to improper use or abuse.

Mr. Sparkman told Board Members that his division works closely with the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission; developers; Community Police Officers; Public Works Engineer Staff, etc. and that his team has divided the City in two areas, the West and East sides.

Another function that his division works on is the removal of graffiti from residential and commercial properties. Their referrals comes mainly from the Police Department or from the citizens. There is a period of compliance of seven working days where citizens are allowed to remove graffiti from their properties. If this is not done within the established time frame, the division proceeds to clean it and to bill the owner for it.

This division is a member of the **Clean Team**, a task force of Community Police Officers, Environmental Inspectors and OCI Inspectors which function to work as a team to resolve serious issues affecting their communities.

Board Members made the following questions /comments:

Board Member Matt Foley wanted to know if the commercial division is responsible to license people or companies doing remodeling. **Mr. Foley** also wanted to know

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how this division regulates the usage of yard signage by realtors and apartment management companies to promote their businesses. **Randy Sparkman responded** that every person or company doing remodeling is responsible to obtain a license or

permit to operate from his office. Also that apartment management companies and realtors are exempted from obtain a sign peimit from OCI and are allowed to use yard signs to promote their business as long as the signs size are within the permitted limit of three to four square feet. He also told Board Members that these signs are legal as long as they were not placed on City

property or right of way.

5. Community Police Officers Beat Report

Patrol South Community Police Officer Michael Roets

Officer Rotes is assigned to Beat 26 and he reported the following:

This beat has experienced several vehicle burglaries recently due to citizens leaving their vehicles unattended, unlocked, with the windows open, leaving valuables items in view, etc. **Officer** Roets advised citizens to pay more attention to these things in order to reduce this type of crime in the City.

Patrol South Community Police Officer Lisa Rollins

Officer Rollins is assign to beat 29 and did not have anything to report.

Patrol East Community Police Officer Matt Brown

Officer Brown is assign to beat 33 and reported the following:

The youth residents of this beat needs urgently a full time recreational facility to provide them with something positive to do when they are not at school.

Officer Brown is working on bringing a Boys and Girls Club to Planeview to fulfill this need.

Patrol East Community Police Officer Michael Hungria

Officer Hungria is assign to beat 35 and reported the following:

This beat covers mainly the community of Hilltop. Hilltop has its own Community Center and a Park, Friendship Park. Officer Hungria is working to improve the recreational facilities that are offered to the community at this time as well as adding other facilities. He is also working with the City to provide adequate lighting and exterior restrooms for the park.

6. Environmental Impact of Demolition and Construction landfills in District 1111

This Agenda item was postponed to the October meeting to allow presenters with more time to prepare for this presentation.

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7.Charitable Solicitation on Public Rights of Way

Patricia Greenway from the Make a Wish Foundation made a presentation on this topic. Mrs. **Greenway** told Board Members that her organization and the Muscular **Dystrophy Association** are the two main non-profit organizations requesting public financial support from motorists on City public rights of way.

She told Board Members that both organizations had operated like that for more than 10 years and that there is group of people from out of Wichita collecting money on Central and Hillside. Their concern is that this group is raising funds here in order to take them out of Wichita. Mrs. Greenway's organization wanted to talk before the District Advisory Board because it is their understanding that the City is planning to ban organizations like hers from raising funds on public rights of way.

The Make a Wish Foundation and the Muscular Dystrophy Association are seeking the support of DAB III in order to recommend before the City Council the establishment of a City regulation to allow the issuance of a permit for legitimate local non-profit organizations to raise funds on City roads.

Amber Decker and Regina Sinclair from the Muscular Dystrophy Association told Board Members that the Wichita area firefighters were doing the boot collection for their annual telethon but they chose not to do so this year causing a significant drop of contributions for their organization.

Board Members made the following questions /comments:

Second Pro-Tern Phil Bloomquist commented that if neighborhood groups like the neighborhood patrol are required to be authorized by the City to operate as such, why not allow the issuance of a permit for non-profit organizations to solicit charitable contributions on public rights of way. Second **Pro-Tern** Bloomquist added that authorized individuals shall wear a badge to be identified by others especially by Peace Officers.

Board Member Judy Dillard commented that she agrees with the issuance of a permit in order to limit abuse by others.

Board Member Matt Foley commented that if we do not regulate these activities with restrictions, it will be prone to be abuse. **Board Member** Foley added that among the concerns that he has regarding the issuance of this type of permits, one is the potential price of these permits and the cost of the insurance because it can cause a financial hardship to non-profit organizations.

Board Member Jim Gulick commented that he will support the fundraising efforts

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of non-profit organizations but that he will not support the use of public right of way for this purpose because drivers in Wichita are not responsive and careful **to** pedestrians. **Board Member Gulick** added that the issuance of these permits will increase the hazard potential for an accident. He told Board Members that he will not support the requested recommendation because there has to be a less hazardous way of doing the fundraising.

Board Member Matt Foley presented before the Board the following motion:

That the City of Wichita shall consider the issuance of a permit to allow local nonprofit organizations to solicit contributions on public roads of Wichita. This permit shall consider and restrict $\sim f$ needed; the locations where these solicitations will occur with regards to safety and with the compliance of local laws. Finally, that the City shall charge a reasonable nominal fee for this permit to cover administrative fees.

This Motion was carried and approved with five present members in favor and one member against

it. (Jim Gulick)

8. Procedure to determine the need for a traffic sign/signal

Paul Gunzelman, Traffic Engineer with Public Works made a presentation on this **topic. Mr. Gunzelman** shared with Board Members information regarding the current guidelines that the City uses to determine the need for a new traffic sign or signal at an intersection. He stated that the City of Wichita looks at following factors to determine the need for a stop sign or a traffic signal:

1. Physical obstructions that are blocking intersections. If they belong to a particular owner, then the City ask the owner to clear the obstruction. If it belongs to us, then we clear the obstruction. If there are locations where the sight distance is severely restricted by buildings, raised yards, etc., a stop sign can be installed to assign right of way and reduce the potential hazard caused by motorists not having enough time to observe and react to each other as they approach the intersection.
2. Locations that have experienced an abnormally high number of right-angle accidents or other types of accidents that might possibly be prevented by stop signs or traffic lights.
3. Locations where high traffic volumes require assigning the right- of- way to one street. When volumes reach the point where the right-of-way should be assigned to one street, intersection efficiency will increase and driver frustration will decrease after the installation of stops signs or traffic signals.

Mr. Gunzelman told Board Members that the traffic engineering division uses

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the following criteria to fairly and effectively evaluate the need for a stop sign or traffic signal:

1. Traffic Volumes
2. Through Streets
3. Sight Distances
4. Accident Experience.

The session became open to the citizens who made the following comments:

Pat Dickens from the K-i 5 Neighborhood Association told Board Members that her Neighborhood Association area needs urgently two stop signs. The first at the corner of Cheyenne and Pawnee where several accidents had occurred. The second one at the corner of Dunham and Volutsia where citizens are using Dunham to avoid _{31st} Street traffic. Drivers according to Mrs. Dickens are running too fast on her street, and a stop sign will reduce the chances of a vehicle accident.

Bruce Norwood another resident of the K-iS Neighborhood Association told Board Members that there has been 15 accidents at the corner of Cheyenne and Pawnee in the last year.

Mike Russell from the same neighborhood association told Board Members that a traffic counter on those two intersections will prove the need of a traffic sign or stop sign in their area.

Second Pro-Tern Phil Bloomquist wanted to know the duration of the traffic counting test done by the traffic engineering division at a particular intersection. **Traffic Engineer Paul Gunzelrnan** responded that the test runs for a period of 24 hours.

Second **Pro-Tern Phil Bloomquist** presented the following motion before the Board Members:

To request from the Traffic Engineering Division of Public Works a second recount of the traffic at the intersections of Pawnee and Cheyenne and Dunham and Volutsia in order to determine the need for a traffic sign or signal in those two areas. Second, to request the notaication of Board Member and K-iS Neighborhood Association President John Kemp of the time and date when the testing is going to be done.

This Motion was approved unanimously.

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9. Problem Properties

DAB III Members reported the following problem properties or complaints:

- 1) **2000 S. Chautauqua**
Board Member Phil Bloomquist is reporting several vehicles parked in the parking lot area. He is also reporting several stray dogs in that area biting citizens in the community.

10. Problem Properties Update *No updates at this time.*

11. OTHER BUSINESS

No other businesses was presented.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammy Rivera
District III Neighborhood Assistant